REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

In response to the Office Action dated September 8, 2005, claims 1, 8, and 15 have been amended. Claims 1-21 remain in the application. Entry of these amendments, and re-consideration of the application, as amended, is requested.

II. PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

On page (2) of the Office Action, claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-10, 12-13, 15-17, and 19-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Goodenough et al., "Queries and Their Application to Reasoning with Remote Sensing and GIS," (Goodenough) in view of Drutman et al., "Marine Geophysics Modeling With Geographic Information Systems," (Drutman), and Sawada et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,843,569 (Sawada). On page (12) of the Office Action, claims 4, 7, 11, 14, 18, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Goodenough in view of Drutman and Sawada, as applied to claims 1, 8, and 17, and further in view of Slik et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,809,145 (Slik).

Specifically, the independent claims were rejected as follows:

> As per claim 1, Goodenough teaches the claimed "method of obtaining a map in a computer graphics program" comprising: "receiving a request for a map picture" (Goodenough, the query to request a map that shows the forest depletion over past 20 years; page 1201, column 2, lines 55-58); "obtaining a map file in response to the request" (Goodenough, a map file comprises the GIS files of the desired site dated 20 years ago, the thematic mapper (TM) and color infra-red geocoded imagery over the site; page 1201, column 2, lines 60-62); "determining, from the map file, a location of map data" (Goodenough, to determine the location of the map data related to the areas representing depleted forest cover; page 1201, column 2, lines 64-66), "wherein the map data defines one or more map objects of the map picture" (Goodenough, the depleted forest cover is the map object of the map picture; page 1201, column 2, lines 64-66); and "obtaining the map data from the location, wherein the obtained map data satisfies the request for the map picture" (Goodenough, the data from the thematic mapper is obtained to satisfy the request for the map showing the forest depletion over past 20 years; page 1203, column 1, lines 11-12). It is noted that although Goodenough teaches the GIS data in both of raster and vector formats (Abstract, lines 1-3); Goodenough does not explicitly teach that the obtained map data is "vector based" map data. However, Drutman teaches that the feature map information, such as Goodenough's depleted forest data, is preferably represented in vector based format (Drutman, representation of feature/attribute; Table II, page III-529). Furthermore, Sawada teaches that a map file containing vector-based objects defines a specific object on the map by its label number or identify code and the identify code will determine a storage location of its corresponding vector-based object (Sawana, column 1, lines 30-38, column 3, lines 29-36). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, in view of the teaching of Drutman and Sawana, to configure Goodenough's method as claimed by storing the map representing the area's features in a vector format (Drutman, page III-528, column 2, lines 28-30) in a location in memory identifiable by its identify code or label number. The motivation for storing the map representing the objects in a vector format in a location in memory identifiable by

its identify code or label number is the simplicity of map file with its vector-based objects represented by their identify codes (Sawada, column 2, lines 18-49).

As per claim 8, Goodenough teaches the claimed "apparatus for obtaining a map computer-implemented graphics system" comprising "(a) a computer" (Goodenough, the SEIDAM intelligent system; page 1199, column 1, lines 41-46); "(b) an application executing on the computer" (Goodenough, the problem solver is written in Prolog; page 1203, column 1, lines 32-34), wherein the application is configured to: "receive a request for a map picture" (Goodenough, the query to request a map that shows the forest depletion over past 20 years; page 1201, column 2, lines 55-58); "obtain a map file" (Goodenough, a map file comprises the GIS files of the desired site dated 20 years agao, the thematic mapper (TM) and color infra-red geocoded imagery over the site; page 1201, column 2, lines 60-62); "determine, from the map file, a storage location of map data" (Goodenough, to determine the location of the map data related to the areas representing depleted forest cover; page 1201, column 2, lines 64-66), "wherein the map data defines one or more map objects of the map picture" (Goodenough, the depleted forest cover is the map object of the map picture; page 1201, column 2, lines 64-66); and "obtain the map data from the location, wherein the obtained map data satisfies the request for the map picture" (Goodenough, the data from the thematic mapper is obtained to satisfy the request for the map showing the forest depletion over past 20 years; page 1203, column 1, lines 11-12). It is noted that although Goodenough teaches the GIS data in both of raster and vector format (Abstract, lines 1-3); Goodenough does not explicitly teach that the obtained map data is "vector based" map data. However, Drutman teaches that the feature map information, such as Goodenough's depleted forest area, is preferably represented in vector based format (Drutman, representation of feature/attribute; Table II, page III-529). Furthermore, Sawada teaches that a map file containing vector-based objects defines a specific object on the map by its label number or identify code and the identify code will determine a storage location of its corresponding vector-based object (Sawana, column 1, lines 30-38, column 3, lines 29-36). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, in view of the teaching of Drutman and Sawana, to configure Goodenough's method as claimed by storing the map representing the area's features in a vector format (Drutman, page III-528, column 2, lines 28-30) in a location in memory identifiable by its identify code or label number. The motivation for storing the map representing the objects in a vector format in a location in memory identifiable by its identify code or label number is the simplicity of map file with its vector-based objects represented by their identify codes (Sawada, column 2, lines 18-49).

As per claim 15, Goodenough teaches the claimed "article of manufacture embodying logic that causes a computer-implemented graphics system to obtain a map" comprising: "receiving a request for a map picture" (Goodenough, the query to request a map that shows the forest depletion over past 20 years; page 1201, column 2, lines 55-58); "obtaining a map file" (Goodenough, a map file comprises the GIS files of the desired site dated 20 years ago, the thematic mapper (TM) and color infra-red geocoded imagery over the site; page 1201, column 2, lines 60-62); "determining, from the map file, a storage location of map data" (Goodenough, to determine the location of the map data related to the areas representing depleted forest cover; page 1201, column 2, lines 64-66), "wherein the map data defines one or more map objects of the map picture" (Goodenough, the depleted forest cover is the map object of the map picture; page 1201, column 2, lines 64-66); and "obtaining the map data from the location, wherein the obtained map data satisfies the request for the map picture" (Goodenough, the data from the thematic mapper is obtained to satisfy the request for the map showing the forest depletion over past 20 years; page 1203, column 1, lines 11-12). It is noted that although Goodenough teaches the GIS data in both of raster and vector formats (Abstract, lines 1-3); Goodenough does not explicitly teach that the obtained map data is "vector based" map data. However, Drutman teaches that the feature map information, such as Goodenough's depleted forest area, is preferably represented in vector based format (Drutman, representation of feature/attribute; Table II, page III-529). Furthermore, Sawada teaches that a map file containing vector-based objects defines a specific object on the map by its label number or identify code and the identify code will determine a storage location of its corresponding vector-based object (Sawana, column 1, lines 30-38, column 3, lines 29-36). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time

the invention was made, in view of the teaching of Drutman and Sawana, to configure Goodenough's method as claimed by storing the map representing the area's features in a vector format (Drutman, page III-528, column 2, lines 28-30) in a location in memory identifiable by its identify code or label number. The motivation for storing the map representing the objects in a vector format in a location in memory identifiable by its identify code or label number is the simplicity of map file with it's vector-based object represented by their identify codes (Sawada, column 2, lines 18-49).

Applicants traverse the above rejections for one or more of the following reasons:

(1) Goodenough, Drutman, Sawada, and Slik do not teach, disclose or suggest a map file that provides a uniform resource locator;

(2) Goodenough, Drutman, Sawada, and Slik do not teach, disclose or suggest a map file that provides a uniform resource locator that identifies a storage location of vector based map data;

(3) Goodenough, Drutman, Sawada, and Slik do not teach, disclose or suggest the ability to determine a storage location of vector based map data that defines a map object for a requested map picture; and

(3) Goodenough, Drutman, Sawada, and Slik do not teach, disclose or suggest obtaining vector based map data from a storage location wherein the vector based map data satisfies a request for a map picture.

Independent claims 1, 8, and 15 are generally directed to obtaining a vector based map in a graphics program. As claimed, a request is received for a map picture. In response to the request, a map file is obtained. As used in the subsequent claim steps, the map file contains a uniform resource locator (URL) that identified a storage location of vector based map data. Accordingly, the method determines, from the map file, a storage location, in the form of a URL, of the vector based map data. Further, the vector based map data defines one or more map objects of the map picture that has been requested. Once the storage location has been determined, the vector based map data is obtained from the location at the URL. In this regard, the retrieved/obtained vector based map data satisfies the request for the map picture.

In view of the above, the claims clearly provide that a map picture is requested and a map file that references locations of vector based map data (that defines map objects) for the map picture is obtained/retrieved.

The cited references do not teach nor suggest these various elements of Applicants' independent claims.

The rejections set forth in the final Office Action are nearly identical to the rejections set forth in the prior Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants reassert the response set forth in the prior Office Action.

In addition to the prior rejections, the final Action further relies on Sawada to teach the storage location. Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse with the rejections. Firstly, as set forth in the original claims, the map file provided a storage location of vector based map data and the data was obtained from that storage location. In rejection these claim element elements, the final Office Action asserts that the label numbers in Sawada teach a storage location – namely:

> ...a map file containing vector-based objects defines a specific object on the map by its label number or identify code and the identify code will determine a storage location of its corresponding vector-based object (Sawana column 1, lines 30-38, column 3, lines 29-36).

Firstly the label code in Sawada is not used to determine a storage location where data can be retrieved from (as set forth in the claims). In this regard, Sawada's label numbers are merely identification labels for pieces of vector data of an extracted map object. Sawada describes a specific sequence of events. Referring to Sawada's FIG. 2, 3, and 4, the map of FIG. 2 is obtained (i.e., a paper map) and object graphic patterns are extracted. In this regard, the names/text of FIG. 2 are removed. Vector object data is then created to represent each extracted object pattern. Labels are then affixed to the vector data. The result is shown in FIG. 3 with the text boxes having labels. The text data that was extracted is stored in an attribute data list with appropriate labeling numbers. Such label numbers are set forth in a predetermined order.

In view of the above, rather than the label number identifying the storage location where data can be obtained from, Sawada's labels are merely sequential numbers that are used to display/represent a particular object on the screen. There is no connection or relationship between where the data is stored and the label number.

Despite the clear differences between Sawada and the prior claims, Applicants have amended the claims to further differentiate and clarify the storage location aspects of the invention. In this regard, the claims now provide that the map file contains a uniform resource locator that identifies a storage location of the map data. Such a teaching is clearly differentiable from any of the cited references. Sawada's label numbers are not uniform resource locators in any way, shape, or form.

Dependent claim 4 provides that the vector map data is obtained from a map server across a network connection. To teach this claim, the Office Action relies on Slik. However, Slik merely describes the ability to access a selected dataset from a CD-ROM at a fulfillment center via a communication network 22 and a server 24. In this regard, Slik does not add any description that provides for the use of a URL in a map file that provides a storage location of vector based map data.

In view of the above, the various elements of Applicants' claimed invention together provide operational advantages over the systems disclosed in Goodenough, Drutman, Sawada, and Slik. In addition, Applicants' invention solves problems not recognized by Goodenough, Drutman, Sawada, and Slik.

Thus, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 8, and 15 are allowable over Goodenough, Drutman, Sawada, and Slik. Further, dependent claims 2-7, 9-14, and 16-21 are submitted to be allowable over Goodenough, Drutman, Sawada, and Slik in the same manner, because they are dependent on independent claims 1, 8, and 15, respectively, and because they contain all the limitations of the independent claims. In addition, dependent claims 2-7, 9-14, and 16-21 recite additional novel elements not shown by Goodenough, Drutman, Sawada, and Slik.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner believe minor matters still remain that can be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to call Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,
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By their attorneys,

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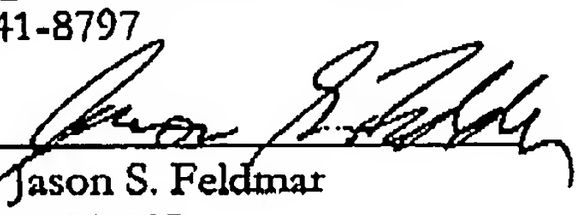
By: 
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